THE PARABLE OF THE Three Jackdaws, &c.

THERE was a Time when the *Feathered Cuccows* made Protestations of Loyalty in their *Commonwealth* fell into Great Disorder about Chusing a Successor to the *Eagle*, whose Advanced Years Portended the Fall of his Scepter, and the Disputes which happened amongst the several Pretenders, did mightily Perplex the *Kingdom of Birds*, who were in doubt, whether the *Eagle* had any *Genuine Off-spring*. The *Magpies*, who had an Inveterate Malice against the *Blackbirds* and *Nightingales*, because they were better lik't than themselves on the Account of their Harmonious Notes, and Innocent Nature, improv'd the opportunity to make Interest with *the Jackdaws and con*, as he was call'd by some, or the True Off-*Cuccows*, to Settle the Succession on a *Noted Bird*, which was reckon'd Brother to the *Eagle*, because Hatch'd in the same Nest; but a Mortal Enemy to the *Nightingales* and *Blackbirds*, and accus'd of a Confederacy with the *Storks* and *Kites*, to betray the Winged Nation to the Birds of Prey. The *Magpies* were frequently told of this, and Remonstrances were entred against their Proceeding, as destructive to the whole *Volatile Empire*; but they turn'd the Deaf Ear to every thing that was said to 'em; for being us'd to Carrion, they delighted in Slaughter. In proces of time the *Eagle* died, and his Brother, the *Friend to the Magpies*, Succeeded: As soon as he Mounted the Throne, the *Magpies* Chatter'd for Joy, the *Jackdaws Caw'd*, and the *Nightingals*

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Usual Note; but he was scarcely Seated on the Throne, when the Region of the Air was fill'd with Birds of Prey, the *Screech-Owls* began to quarrel with the *Jackdaws*, and the *Cormorants* pretended a Right to the Nests of the *Magpies*. In the mean time, though they could not agree amongst themselves, yet all of them united against the *Nightingales* and *Blackbirds*, who, by this means, were forced to Retire to the Solitary Groves, where they Chirpt and Warbled out their own Misfortunes. The Affairs of the Winged Empire being in this posture, a *Generous Falcon*, because of his favourable Inclinations to the *Nightingales* and *Blackbirds*, that they summoned together their Friends the *Rooks*, and joyning with the *Storks* and *Kites*, Oppressed the poor *Falcon*, with his small Retinue; and having Barbarously destroyed them, the *Eagles* Brother, the *Magpies*, *Jackdaws*, and *Cuccows*, (concluding

thought themſelves ſecure, the *Night-Owls* and *Cormorants*, with the *Storks* and *Kites* their Adherents, having been a long time diſpoſſeſt of their Neſts by the *Magpies* and *Jackdaws*, and their followers the *Rooks* and *Cuccows*, reſolv'd to come to a Trial of Skill with them, upon which the *Magpies* came to have ſome *REMORSE* for their Barbarous Treatment of the Innocent *Blackbirds*; and, abating ſomething of the uſual harſhneſs of their Note, began to call *Mag*, *Mag*, *poor Mag*, *a Cup of Sack for poor fainting Mag*; and the *Jackdaws* Caw'd to the *Blackbirds*, in a Milder Note than before, bewailed their Former Severity, and invited the *Nightingales* and *Blackbirds* to joyn with them, againſt the *Kites*, *Cormorants*, and *Screech-Owls*. The *Eagles* Brother being afraid of the Conſequences of ſuch an Union, came alſo to a Parley with the *Blackbirds* and *Nightingales*, and offered them *fair Quarter*, provided they would concur towards the procuring of an *Authentick Act* at the General Diet of the Winged Empire, to ſecure his Followers in the Poſſeſſion of their Neſts for all time coming; the *Amazed Blackbirds* being ſurpriz'd with this mighty Change, and having been wretchedly torn by the Talons of both Parties, knew not whom to truſt; but the *Eagles Brother* being poſſeſt of the Throne, decency oblig'd them to make Civil Replies: but ſome of the *BAITS* which frequented the Company of the *Blackbirds*, engaged too far with the *Cormorant*-Intereſt, and by this time both Parties own'd the Poſſeſſor of the Throne for a True Eagle: Having gain'd his Point ſo far, he reſolv'd to puſh on his Fortune, and being provok't with the Behaviour of the *Magpies*, he deſign'd to put their Pretenſions of Loyalty to the Touch-ſtone, and commanded them to publiſh his Imperial Edict, giving Liberty to all the Subjects of the Airy Regions to Warble out the Praiſes of their Great Creator in ſuch Notes as Nature had furniſhit 'em with, *It being highly unreaſonable to ſay, that the* Canary-bird *was no Bird, becauſe ſhe could not Croak like the* Raven, *or that the* Nightingale *was no Subject of the Winged Empire, becauſe ſhe could not chatter like the* Magpy.

The *Magpies* and *Jacks* were Thunder-ſtruck at the hearing of this unlookt-for Command, and Moſt of 'em did *SULLENLY* refuſe it: yet ſome of the *Magpies* and the *Swallows* which *neſtled about the Altars* thought fit to comply, but the *Metropolitan-Magpy*, and Six of the reſt did poſitively refuſe to obey the *Eagle*, who did thereupon Commit them to his Imperial Priſon. Then nothing was to be heard but *Alas poor Mag*, *a Cup of Sack for Mag*: and on the other hand, the *Cormorants* and *Kites* cried, *A Rope for Mag*, *Mag*, *Mag*, *a Halter for Mag*: and the *Blackbirds* and *Nightingales*, though they were ſomething concerned at the Misfortune of the *Magpies*, yet could not but ſay, that *Mag* was ſerv'd according to her Deſerts: but the *Jackdaws* and *Cuccows*, with their Allies the *Rooks*, did ſo much diſturb the *Eagles* Quiet, with their *Cawing* and *Croaking*, that he Releaſed the *Magpies*, but purſued his Deſign of Eſtabliſhing a Tyranny in the Regions of the Air; and, in order to accompliſh his Deſign, did enter into a Confederacy with the *VULTURS*, Reſolvd to Diſinherit the *Generous She-Eagle* of his own Race, and to Impoſe a *Counterfeit He-Eagle* upon the Nation of the Birds; which did ſo much provoke the Feather'd Commonwealth, that they agreed with the Aſſiſtance of a *Genuine Eagle*, of the True Imperial Neſt who had the Generous *She-Eagle*, above-mentioned, to his Mate, to Curb the Tyrannical *Eagle*, and prevent his Impoſing *an Oſtrich* inſtead of an *Eagle* upon the Winged Empire. Many of the *Magpies* and *Jackdaws*, with all the *Blackbirds* and *Nightingales*, Joyn'd in the Invitation to the *Young Eagle*, who taking his Flight from beyond-Sea, did happily Alight in the Imperial Grove; and being Joyn'd with a Promiſcuous Flock of *Blackbirds*, *Jackdaws*, *Nightingales*, and ſome *Rooks*, put the *Kites*, and *Cormorants*, and *Old Eagle* to Flight; who, after he had Rooſted a while in his Imperial Neſt, abandoned the ſame, and Fled Beyond-Sea with the *Oſtrich his Mate*, and the Counterfeit-Eagle her Suppoſed-Son, to the *Vulture's*-Grove.

The *Eagle* having thus taken his flight, the *Magpies* began to relent, and to wiſh that things had not come to that Extremity; for the *Jackdaws* and they became now apprehenſive, that they were in as much danger of loſing their Neſts, by the *Blackbirds* and *Nightingals*, as they had formerly been by the *Kites* and *Cormorants*, becauſe the *Young Eagle* who came from beyond *Sea*, was Judged to have a mighty kindneſs for the *Black-*

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birds and Nightingals, and his Mate, the Generous *She-Eagle* had no aversion to them, and thus it came to pass that the *Metropolitical Maggy*, who had been the Ringleader of those who oppos'd the old *Eagle*, and invited the young one to his Nest, began to *grow sullen*, and his Example infecting the rest of the *Maggs*, the faction was divided amongst themselves, so that some of the *Magpies and Jackdaws*, were for acknowledging the young Eagle as Soveraign of the Birds, and others chattering still upon the *abdicated theme of passive obedience*, alledg'd that the old *Eagle* had injury done him, and did all that they could to obstruct the progress of the young *Eagles* affairs, and having by the Interest of the *Magpies*, who own'd his Title, got an influence on his Councils, they advis'd him to disband the *Blackbirds and Nightingals*, who had flockt to him at his first coming over, and to govern his affairs by the advice of the *Magpies and Jackdaws*, and by this method they got his Court and his Camp fill'd with Rooks, who did still retain a very great kindness for the old *Eagle*, and their ancient Cronies, the *Cormorants* and *Kites*, and did them kindly offices as opportunity offered.

In the mean time the *Nightingals*, and *Blackbirds* of the *Eagles antient Grove*; had been so terribly infested by the *Magpies*, *Jackdaws*, and *Rooks*, and so mischievously torn by the *Talons* of the *Kites*, and *Cormorants* their allies, that they lookt upon the *Magpies as Harpies*, and in a General *diet of the Birds* held for that Grove, Voted that the *Magpies* and their *Underlings*, the *Jackdaws* were the great and insupportable grievance of the Winged Empire, and with one consent dislog'd them of their Nests, so that the *Maggs and Jacks kept away in great Numbers*, to the Neighbouring Grove, chatter'd nothing but passive obedience and Nonresistance, and the Injury done to the old *Eagle*, which strengthened the faction of the *Southern Magpies*, and made the young *Eagle* very uneasy in his Nest; whence it came to pass that the *Magpy faction* procur'd a Rebellion in the *Northern Grove*, under the Conduct of a *Mischievous Rook*, who being joyn'd by a *Rabble* of the *Jackdaws*, *Kites*, *Cormorants*, and *Solan Geese*, gave the young *Eagles* followers in that Grove a considerable Check, but the mischievous *Rook* being pockt to death in the scuffle, the Rebellion was gradually appeas'd there; but the *Northern Jackdaws* and *Solan Geese*, with the abdicated *Harpies*, fill'd the *Southern Grove* with their querulous Notes, so that nothing was to be heard, but alas, *poor Magg*, *Magg*, *Magg*, is put out of her Nest in the *North*, and must expect the same treatment in the *South*, except the old *Eagle* be recall'd. Whereupon that *Tyrannous* bird conceiving good hopes of his affairs, did by the assistance of the *Vulture*, who lent him some bands of *Storks*, *Kites*, and *Rooks*, take his flight to St. *Patricks Grove*, where being Joyn'd by some *Cormorants*, and the *Native Woodcocks*; he quickly overspread the whole Grove excepting some small part of it, where a *Colony of their Northern birds had fixt* their Nests, who made such a stout Resistance against the Tyrant *Eagle*, and his birds of prey, that the fame thereof eccho'd through the Regions of the Air, but the *Southern Magpies* and *Jackdaws* being influenc'd by the *Northern Harpies*, and *Solan Geese*, obstructed the Relief of the *Blackbirds* of St. *Patricks Grove* so long, that they were well nigh undone, and the first relief they had sent 'em being under the Conduct of a *Villanous Rook*, he was little less Noisome to the *Blackbirds*, than the *Kites* and *Cormorants*, so that the young *Eagle* was oblig'd to fly thither in person, and not long after his Arrival, he gave the Tyrant *Eagle* and his followers such a terrible overthrow by a *purling brook*; that the old one fled from St. *Patricks Grove*, and betook himself again to the *Vultures* quarters, whilst the *Colonies* of the *Northern Blackbirds* and *Nightingals*, did with inimitable Courage subdue the *Woodcocks*, and the young *Eagles* followers dislog'd the *Vultures* and *Cormorants* from their Nests, so that in a little time St. *Patricks Grove* was entirely recovered.

The *Vulture*, by whose Counsels the abdicated *Eagle* had all along govern'd himself, perceiving that he was now quite driven from his Nest, resolved to attack the *Flammish Coppice*; which had formerly been the Residence of the young *Eagle*, which oblig'd the Generous Bird to repair *Beyond-Sea*, for the defence of his ancient friends, but tho he Acted *Wonders*, yet his Counsels were betray'd by the friends of the *Maggs and the Daws*, and his Troops being chiefly Commanded by *Rooks*, the Birds of his retinue met with several Disasters, and at the same time the *Kites* and *Cormorants*, and

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seditious Maggs, did all that they could to disturb the repose of the Generous She *Eagle* his Mate, whom they would fain have destroy'd in his absence, but the *faithful Magpies and moderate Jackdaws*, with the *Blackbirds* and *Nightingals*, did unite so cordially for her defence, that their designs were disappointed. Thus was the Generous young *Eagle* perplexed by *Vultures*, *Storks*, and *Cormorants* abroad, and *Treacherous Magpies Jackdaws and Rooks* at home, and chiefly because they were apprehensive of being outed by the *Blackbirds*, who whatever priviledges they had acquir'd in the *North*, they said must content themselves to build Nests in the *Eves of houses in the* South, *where the Churches were the proper habitation of the Magpies and Jackdaws*. Nor would they suffer the *Nightingals* and the *Falcons*, to have any command in the winged Army, that being the property of the *Kites* and *Rooks*, because they did annually swear Allegiance to the *Magpies* and *Jackdaws* at the Altars, which the *Falcons* and *Nightingals* would never do.

In the mean time the *Generous She Eagle* died, which did so much grieve her faithful Mate, that the Kingdom of Birds had well nigh lost both their Soveraigns at once. However, he generously pluckt up his Courage, and considering that he was born for Empire, did scorn to be conquered by passion; and therefore resolv'd that as he had defeated the *Maws* and the *Gulls*, belonging to the *Vulture* by Sea, he would have a Trial of Valour with him by Land, notwithstanding his Alliance with the *overgrown Raven of the East*, so that taking another flight into the Continent, he dislodged the *Vulture* from one of his chief Nests, who thereupon became so much afraid of the young *Eagles Talons*, that he durst not adventure on a fair War with him any more; but resolv'd to subborn some *Night-Owls*, *Buzzards*, *Kites*, *Cormorants*, and *Cuccows*, to assassinate the Generous *Eagle* in the dark, which he had attempted several times before, but laid the design so craftily now, that he was sure it could not miscarry. And this taking effect he design'd to have destroy'd all the *Blackbirds and Nightingals, with the faithful Magpies* and moderate *Jackdaws*, and all the other loyal Birds in St. *George* St. *Andrews*, and St. *Patrick's Groves*, and to have possest them for ever; with *Vultures*, *Kites*, *Storks*, *Ravens*, *Rooks*, *Cormorants*, and *Magpies*, and *Jackdaws* of his own stamp. However this *Conspiracy* being happily discovered by the *Parrots*; many of the *Owls*, *Buzzards*, and *Cormorants*, who were employed to assassinate the young *Eagle* were taken, and some of 'em suffered Death according to the Laws of the feathered Kingdom; *three Cormorants* first, and a little after a *Cuccows*, who being drawn in by the *Treacherous Magpies*, and *Jackdaws*, *three* of the latter attended them to the place of their *Exit*, and Cawing to them in the old Note of passive obedience, deluded the poor *Cuccows*, and telling them that by vertue of the Authority which they had acquir'd by a long possession of the Steeples; where no *Blackbird* had any right to come, they were constituted Lawful Priests of the winged Empire, and therefore *absolv'd* them from the false imputation of guilt, for endeavouring to cut the young *Eagles* throat, for he was none of the Birds of *Jupiters* Nest, and tho the Beetle had unluckily broke all the old *Eagles* Eggs, which were procreated betwixt him and the *Italian Ostrich*; yet there was a time coming when they would find a safe repository if not in *Jove*, yet in St. *Peters Lap*, and oblige the pretended *Eagle*, who was no other than a *Geneva* Bird, hatcht amongst the shells, which one of the *Roman* Emperors gathered together as a Mark of Triumph on the *Dutch Coast*, to retire to the banks of *Lake-Leman*, in the faith of which the silly *Cuccows* did chearfully swallow their hemp-seed, and crying *Cuccow*, *Cuccow*, the *Jackdaws* answered Caw, caw, caw, and then the *Cuccows* were choack'd, at which the Loyal Birds were so much incens'd, that they have shut up *two of the Jackdaws in a Cage* and are hunting after the other which is fled; so that in a little time, we may hap to see these *Jackdaws* follow the fate of the *Cuccows*, while all the *Winged Empire*, *from the Imperial Eagle to the Wren*, are associated to defend the Generous young *Eagle*, as a true bird of the Imperial Nest against the *Vulture of the West*, *the overgrown Raven of the East*, *the Traiterous Magpies Jackdaws*, *Storks*, *Kites*, *Rooks*, *Ravens*, *and Cormorants*, and the *Larks*, *Nightingals* and *Blackbirds*, do daily with their harmonious Notes Celebrat *Jupiters* praises for preserving his beloved *Eagle*.

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Advertisement.

☞ *There is newly publish'd*—A Letter to the *Three Absolvers*, Mr. *Cook*, Mr. *Collier* and Mr. *Smith*. Being Reflections on the Papers delivered by Sir *John Friend* and Sir *Will. Parkins*, to the Sheriffs of *London* and *Middlesex*, at *Tyburn*, the Place of Execution, *April* 3. 1696. which said PAPERS are Printed at length, and answered Paragraph by Paragraph. Price 6*d*. Printed for *R. Baldwin*.

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